



YAMANAGOLD

NEWS RELEASE

YAMANA INCREASES AVAILABLE CASH AND CREDIT TO US \$0.5 BILLION DOLLARS

TORONTO, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 24, 2008 — YAMANA GOLD INC. (TSX:YRI; NYSE:AUY; LSE:YAU) announced today that it has completed its previously announced equity financing and it has secured a further US\$200 million revolving credit facility. The facility was jointly arranged by Scotia Capital and RBS Greenwich Capital, and is being provided by a syndicate of international banks including The Bank of Nova Scotia, ABN AMRO Bank N.V. and Export Development Canada. Including its pre-existing US\$300 million revolving credit facility maturing in 2012, the company now has US\$500 million of available credit under revolving credit lines of which approximately US\$250 million remains completely undrawn.

The Company currently has approximately half a billion dollars of cash and immediate and undrawn credit availability for its corporate purposes.

About Yamana

Yamana is a Canadian-based gold producer with significant gold production, gold development stage properties, exploration properties, and land positions in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Central America. Yamana is producing gold and other precious metals at intermediate company production levels in addition to significant copper production. The company continues to build on this base through existing operating mine expansions and throughput increases, the advancement of its exploration properties and by targeting other gold consolidation opportunities in Brazil, Argentina, Chile and elsewhere in the Americas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Jodi Peake
Vice President, Corporate Communications &
Investor Relations
(416) 815-0220
Email: investor@yamana.com
www.yamana.com

Letitia Wong
Director, Investor Relations
(416) 815-0220
Email: investor@yamana.com
www.yamana.com

MEDIA CONTACT:**Mansfield Communications Inc.**

Hugh Mansfield

(416) 599-0024

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS: This news release contains certain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and “forward-looking information” under applicable Canadian securities legislation. Except for statements of historical fact relating to the company, information contained herein constitutes forward-looking statements, including any information as to the Company’s strategy, plans or future financial or operating performance. Forward-looking statements are characterized by words such as “plan,” “expect,” “budget”, “target”, “project,” “intend,” “believe,” “anticipate”, “estimate” and other similar words, or statements that certain events or conditions “may” or “will” occur. Forward-looking statements are based on the opinions, assumptions and estimates of management considered reasonable at the date the statements are made, and are inherently subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other known and unknown factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, satisfaction of conditions precedent in connection with the credit facilities, the use of proceeds from the equity offering, the impact of general business and economic conditions, global liquidity and credit availability on the timing of cash flows and the values of assets and liabilities based on projected future conditions, possible variations in ore grade or recovery rates, fluctuating metal prices (such as gold, copper, silver and zinc), currency exchange rates (such as the Brazilian Real and the Chilean Peso versus the United States Dollar), changes in the Company’s hedging program, changes in accounting policies, changes in the Company’s corporate resources, changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined, changes in project development and production time frames, risk related to joint venture operations, the possibility of project cost overruns or unanticipated costs and expenses, higher prices for fuel, steel, power, labour and other consumables contributing to higher costs and general risks of the mining industry, failure of plant, equipment or processes to operate as anticipated, unexpected changes in mine life, final pricing for concentrate sales, unanticipated results of future studies, seasonality and unanticipated weather changes, costs and timing of the development of new deposits, success of exploration activities, permitting time lines, government regulation of mining operations, environmental risks, unanticipated reclamation expenses, title disputes or claims, limitations on insurance coverage and timing and possible outcome of pending litigation and labour disputes, as well as those risk factors discussed or referred to in the Company’s annual Management’s Discussion and Analysis and Annual Information Form filed with the securities regulatory authorities in all provinces of Canada and available at www.sedar.com, and the Company’s Annual Report on Form 40-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking statements if circumstances or management’s estimates, assumptions or opinions should change, except as required by applicable law. The reader is cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The forward-looking information contained herein is presently for the purpose of assisting investors in understanding the Company’s expected financial and operational performance and the Company’s plans and objectives in making an investment decision and may not be appropriate for other purposes.